

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **U.S. AMBASSADOR MOZENA VISITS USAID'S FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM IN SHIRAJGONJ**

**DHAKA, FEBRUARY 26** -- Today U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena visited a USAID food security program under the SHOUHARDO II program, in Boro Pangashi Union, Ullapara Upazila, Sirajganj. First, the Ambassador and his delegation met with a village development committee (VDC) and talked about community action plan. Then, the Ambassador observed Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Center. The ECCD Center is a pre-school that introduces a learning process and flow of information traditionally denied to girls and boys. The ECCD interventions take a holistic approach by which children under the age of 4-6 will be able to develop their physical, mental, social and cognitive elements through an active learning environment.

After visiting ECCD, Ambassador Mozena met with Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA) group members. EKATA uses a method of education that analyzes deeper causes of the problems affecting disadvantaged women. It initiates positive actions to address these problems by working with women's groups in collaboration with supportive VDCs and other male members of the community to solve the issues addressed and promote women's rights.

Finally, Ambassador Mozena observed raised homesteads and Comprehensive Homestead Development (CHD) initiatives in the community. With Shirajgonj being a low land area, the main objective of the CHD is to raise the homestead above flooding level to ensure that families can stay at their house during the flooding period and as well better utilization of the space available at a homestead.

USAID's food security program, SHOUHARDO II works with the most vulnerable and marginalized households in the disaster prone and food-insecure areas of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and reaching over 370,000 households.

=====